

REMARKS

With this Preliminary Amendment, claims 1-3, 9-12, 15, and 17-19 are amended. Claims 1-20 are pending in this application.

Amendments to Drawings and Specification

With this Preliminary Amendment, please replace all of the figures with the nine (9) replacement sheets enclosed. FIGS. 3 through 9 have been amended to illustrate actuator motor 15 in phantom to show that it exists within actuator block 13. In the specification, for example at page 3, line 21, actuator motor 15 is described as being within actuator block 13. (*See also*, page 4, line 22.) The specification also explains at page 4, lines 17-26, that link 44 is pivotally connected to actuator block 13 at axis 48, and that actuator motor 15 drives link 44 at axis 48. With these amendments to FIGS. 3-9, all features of the claimed invention are illustrated in the figures.

Amendments Relating To 35 U.S.C. § 112

With this Preliminary Amendment, independent claims 1 and 19 have been amended to remove the actuator motor from the claims, and independent claim 12 has been amended to more accurately describe the structure of the rotary actuator system. With this amendment, independent claim 12 is now consistent with the specification (*see*, for example, page 3, line 21 and page 4, line 22) and all features of the claims are adequately disclosed.

Amendments Relating To 35 U.S.C. § 102 / § 103

With this Preliminary Amendment, independent claims 1 and 12 have been amended to clarify the structure of the rotary actuator system. Specifically, claims 1 and 12 have been amended to recite pivotal connections at each ends of the links. Claims 1-6, 11-13, and 18 were previously rejected in an Office Action dated July 5, 2005 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by the Rohart patent (U.S. Patent No. 4,751,596) or the Japanese patent document (59-28216). In the alternative, the claims were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over the Japanese patent document.

Each and every element of independent claims 1 and 12 is not taught or suggested by any

of the prior art of record. For example, neither the Rohart patent nor the Japanese patent document cited include both a drive link pivotally connected to the actuator block at the first end and a guide link pivotally connected to the actuator block at the first end. In the Rohart patent, link 11 is not connected to block 16 at the end, but rather in the middle. In the Japanese patent document, link 38 is not pivotally connected to block 31, but rather to link 39.

It would not have been obvious to modify the Japanese patent document to locate the motor on the actuator block to provide for a more compact assembly. However, even if this modification were made, the resulting configuration still would not include each and every element of the claimed invention. In particular, independent claims 1 and 12 recite that each of the parallel links is pivotally connected to the actuator block. The Japanese patent document does not teach or suggest pivotal connection of each of the parallel links to the actuator block. Rather, only one of the links (45) is connected to the actuator block. Note that link 38 is not connected to the actuator block, but rather to another link 39. There is no teaching, suggestion, or motivation to modify the Japanese patent document to the configuration recited in independent claims 1 and 12. Therefore, independent claims 1 and 12 are in condition for allowance. Claims 2-6, 11, 13 and 18 depend from allowable independent claims 1 or 12 and are allowable therewith.

Dependent Claims

Claims 2-11, and 13-18 depend from allowable independent claims 1 and 12, and are also allowable. Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Allowable Claims

Claims 19 and 20 were indicated to be allowable if the rejection under § 112 were overcome. Therefore, with this Preliminary Amendment, independent claim 19 is allowable. Claim 20 depends from independent claim 19 and is also allowable.

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-9-

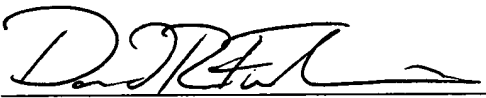
Conclusion

Based upon the foregoing, the pending application containing claims 1-20 is in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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